Replenishment Scheme for Diamond Exports.

4950. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the replenishment scheme for diamond exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how the new scheme will boost the diamond exports;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Government have revamped the replenishment scheme for diamond exports by Notification dated the 27th September, 1991 so as to ensure that exporters receive adequate quantity of raw materials for cutting and polishing diamonds. The replinishment rates have now been fixed on the basis for per carat realisation in US dollars so that the full value addition accrues in US dollars. Government monitors the Replenishment rates and fine tuning of the rates is done from time to time.

Smuggling of Cotton from Maharashtra

4951. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the Minster of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being smuggled out from Maharashtra in large quantity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) the value of cotton smuggled out during the current season;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government due to the smuggling of cotton; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). There are reports of some cotton being smuggled out of Maharashtra to the neighbouring States, as the guaranteed prices under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State are less as compared to the market prices in the neighbouring States.

(c) and (d). In view of the nature of such operation, the value of cotton smuggled is not known and the total loss suffered by the Government on this account also can not be ascertained.

(e) The steps taken by the Government of Maharashtra to prevent smuggling of cotton from the State include the payment of 35% advance additional price over the support price to the growers, intensification of vigil in the border areas, and the cancellation of licences of vehicles carrying smuggled cotton etc.

Ferry Service Across River Mandovi in Goa

4952. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to the Government of Goa after the collapse of the Mandovi bridge for purchase of ferries and payments towards diesel and oil charges, staff salaries and other maintenance expenses for transporting commuters to and fro from Panaji to Betim during each of the last three years, item-wise.